



2003 Eagle Days

January 4 9am-4pm

January 5 10am-4pm

Willmore Lodge~Lake Ozark

Sponsored by the Runge Conservation Nature Center
and the Lake Area Chamber of Commerce

Live eagles from World Bird Sanctuary at
Willmore Lodge.

Wild eagle viewing sites with high-power scopes
at the Bagnell Dam access and on the deck of
the Willmore Lodge. Dress warmly.

Eagle watch cruises (30 min.) on the Paddle
Wheeler *Tom Sawyer* on January 4 only
(conditions permitting.) Cost \$4 per person.
Tickets may be purchased prior to departure
of the cruises on January 4.

Souvenirs will be for sale in Willmore Lodge.

Runge Conservation Nature Center is located in western Jefferson City. From U.S. 50, exit on Highway 179. Travel north on 179 for 1/4 mile to the Nature Center entrance on the left. The Nature Center is open Monday through Saturday 8 AM to 5 PM and Noon to 5 PM on Sundays. Closed New Year's Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. No admission fee. PHONE: 573/526-5544 FAX: 573/526-4496 <<http://www.conservation.state.mo.us>>

We hope to hear from you!

Reply Requested
You will be receiving a postcard asking if
you want to remain on the *Habitat*
Happenings mailing list. You'll also have a
chance to make any corrections to your
name or address. Please take a few
moments to complete the survey so that we
can better serve YOU.

HABITAT HAPPENINGS
Runge Conservation Nature Center
P.O. Box 180
Jefferson City, MO 65102

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MO Dept. of Conservation



RUNGE CONSERVATION NATURE CENTER

January and February 2003

HABITAT HAPPENINGS

10th
Birthday

1993

2003

Searching for Answers

If you hold your breath mosquitoes won't bite you. Follow a badger because it knows what roots are cures. Spider webs over a crib will keep a baby safe. Myths, tall tales, folklore, and mystery are alive and well, especially in nature. They persist and grow with time, even in this age of remarkable discoveries. Have we found it all? Do we have the answers to everything? If so, why do the myths persist and why do we still ask "why?"

By nature, people are curious and have a deep desire to know more about things. We are drawn to the odd and the bizarre - those things that feed our emotions. We are quick to jump to conclusions or to make assumptions and this is the beginning of many myths and tall tales. The natural world is an amazing place, full of complex relationships and functions. It is no wonder that we are curious. After all, we are a part of it.

Many myths appear far-fetched, but in reality may be based on some truth. For instance, if you hold your breath mosquitoes won't bite you. Mosquitoes are attracted to sweat and moist air, but also to exhaled carbon dioxide. According to entomologist, Dennis La Point at the University of Massachusetts, "Your breath is actually an activator of host-seeking behavior, stimulating them to bite." So holding your breath might really work, but it is not highly recommended.



Insects are often considered bizarre and many myths surround this group of animals; just as many, if not more, are told about another group of animals - reptiles. The number one program asked for at our nature center is "Snakes Alive." Yet, most people will say they fear these animals. Perhaps fear keeps us from learning more. Maybe we fill in the gaps by jumping to conclusions.

Through our programs at the nature center, we hope to feed the desire to know more. We offer small facts that may stimulate inquisitiveness about larger ones. The harder we look the more we find out and the more we realize we don't know. The vastness of things to know is awesome. Don't be afraid to delve into the mysteries that surround us. Listen closely to some of those myths and tall tales. They may hold more answers than you realize.

Written by Robin Crabtree, Naturalist



Volunteer News



Kevin Lohruff and Doris Linhardt



Clarence Higgins and Robin Crabtree



Gretchen Hanna and Jan Syrigos

Runge Volunteers Honored

Six Runge Nature Center Volunteers were honored on December 5 at the annual Volunteer Christmas party. All awards were named after parts of the Christmas tree, which was the theme of the evening.

Judith Lambayan

Angel Award (most considerate and caring)

Kay Coleman

Tree Stand Award (most supportive and steady)

Clarence Higgins

Pickle Award (most humor, most childlike)

Carolyn Brunner

Twinkling Lights (most hours)

Gretchen Hanna

Candle Award (most sparkiness)

Doris Linhardt

Shining Star Award (**Volunteer of the Year**)

“And the Emmy goes to... **CritterRock!**”



Our very own naturalist, Jan Syrigos, is an Emmy recipient for her role as composer and choreographer in the music video *CritterRock!*. The purpose of the Emmy Awards is to recognize outstanding achievements and encourage the continuing pursuit of excellence within the television industry. The *CritterRock!* video won the Mid-America Emmy in the category of Children's Program—Long Form.

Along The Trail

You will be noticing some changes as you walk these nature center trails:

Moss Rock Trace - We have cleared an area that was filled with invasive exotic plants and are restoring the bottomland forest. Following is a list of plants that were recently planted in the cleared area:

70 pecan	30 black walnut	25 paw paw
25 witch hazel	25 button bush	25 river birch

Naturescape Trail - We are fortunate at Runge to have some beautiful old oak trees. Many of these large trees are over 200 years old. Unfortunately, one of these trees is dying and has become a potential hazard. As a result, we will be cutting that tree down this winter. Hopefully, we will be able to leave part of the stump and log so the legacy of the old oak tree will continue.

Feel free to contact the nature center if you have any questions about management on the area.

Exhibits for January February



Wildflower & Wildlife Prints

The Thomas Jefferson Middle School Watercolor Club of Jefferson City will have their prints on display. Enjoy the works of these talented students.

Celebrate!

Come spread your wings with us! On July 10, 2003 we will officially celebrate our 10th birthday, *but the celebration will last 10 months*. You will find your passport to FUN and EXCITEMENT in this newsletter. Follow the instructions on the insert to assemble this passport, then get it stamped at any of our programs or events. When you get 10 stamps, you may redeem your passport at the Nature Center front desk for a very special prize. Your passport is good through the 10th month of this year! You may also take advantage of several special “double stamp” events including our kick-off celebration event – **Eagle Days!** Stay tuned for more information or call the nature center at 573/526-5544.



Conservation Kids' Club

Welcome to Conservation Kids' Club, a fun club created for kids 6-13 years old who love to explore nature and learn about wildlife. Come to one of these meetings and we'll sign you up.

Eagle Watch Field Trip

Saturday, January 4, 2003

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM Pollywogs (Ages 6-8) and Bullfrogs (Ages 9-13) combine for this meeting.

This trip is now full! Please check your Conservation Kids' Club newsletter, *Treetop Chatter*, for details.

Reptile Rap!

Tuesday, February 18, 2003

7:00 - 8:00 PM Pollywogs (Ages 6-8) and Bullfrogs (Ages 9-13) combine for this meeting.

Catch the rap on these cold-blooded creatures! Feel with your own fingers the scaly skin of a slithering snake and see with your own eyes a lizard without legs! Get the scoop on why turtles cross the road. Tantalize your taste buds with turtle treats and lizard liquid. Join our Reptile Sculpture Contest and form your favorite reptile out of play dough or modeling clay. Bring your creation to the meeting and we'll put it in the "art show" for all to see. Cool prizes!

Hey Parents!

While big brother/sister attend Conservation Kids' Club, your pre-schooler can be involved in a Little Acorns program (3-6 years of age) at the same time!

Little Acorns Program

February 18 ~ 7 PM ^{3-6 years of age}

Rise and Shine

Is it time to wake up from a long winter's nap? February is the month to learn about groundhogs and whether or not they can answer that question.

Scouts...

Call January 3rd to make your reservation. These programs are for scout groups with 10 or fewer members in their group. If you have over 10, contact the nature center to schedule your own program.

Earth and Sky Try-It - Brownies
Wednesday, January 8 - 6:30 PM

Bird Elective - Wolf Cub Scouts
Wednesday, January 15 - 6:30 PM

Animal Try-It - Brownies
Wednesday, January 22 - 6:30 PM

Naturalist - Webelos Cub Scouts
Wednesday, January 29 - 6:30 PM

Watching Wildlife Try-It - Brownies
Wednesday, February 5 - 6:30 PM

Bear Achievement #5 - Bear Cub Scouts
Wednesday, February 12 - 6:30 PM

Animals Try-It - Brownies
Wednesday, February 19 - 6:30 PM

Earth and Sky Try-It - Brownies
Wednesday, February 26 - 6:30 PM

Scout Packs Available

Just a reminder . . . scout leaders can check out packs from the Runge Conservation Nature Center to help their groups with outdoor skills.

- Each pack may be checked out for a maximum of one week.
- You are responsible for all the items within the pack.
- Only one pack may be checked out at a time.
- Each pack will include an instruction packet and equipment to work on a badge.

The packs available include:

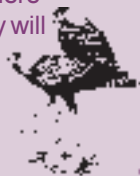
- Wolf Cub Elective #13 - *Birds*
- Cub Scout Achievement #5 - *Sharing Your World With Wildlife*
- Brownie Try It - *Animals*
- Brownie Try It - *Plants*

Events for... **January**

Registration for all programs begins on January 3rd. Call 573/526-5544 to make your reservation.

Eagle Days

Do you want to see live eagles? Join us at Willmore Lodge where the World Bird Sanctuary will have live eagles on display. Refer to back page for additional information.



4 Saturday

9 AM - 4 PM -- Families

5 Sunday

10 AM - 4 PM -- Families

9 Thursday

A Bird Spectacular

7 PM -- Adults

Don't miss this opportunity to discover birds through the eyes of wildlife ecologist, Brad Jacobs. Brad has spent many years enjoying birds in Missouri and worldwide. He also authored the book *Birds in Missouri*, published in 2001. During this program he will share some of his knowledge and excitement about birds with you. Program sponsored by the River Bluffs Audubon Society.

11 Saturday

The Runge Hiking Club

8 AM-Noon -- 18 Years and older

See splendid sights! Learn about our wondrous state! Come join novice and experienced day hikers alike as we strap on our boots and go! Each month, we'll meet at the nature center, car pool to one of Missouri's choice hiking spots, and hike one or two of the best trails. A volunteer naturalist will lead the hikes and point out highlights as we go.

It's a Runge Hiking Club tradition! This month, we'll return to **Painted Rock State Forest** to hike the **Osage Bluff Scenic Trail** (1.6 miles), one of the most interesting and scenic trails in the state. We'll warm up by hiking up 140-foot-high bluffs, then down to the river level, and back up for magnificent views of the Osage river valley. We'll see ancient cedars, view remnants of a Native American burial cairn, and have a 50/50 chance of spotting a bald eagle. Bring your water and wear hiking boots or comfortable shoes. Also, come dressed for the weather. Reservations required.

12 Sunday

Wildlife Rumors

2 PM -- Families

Do toads give you warts? Can milk snakes milk cows? Are some Missouri lizards venomous? Not sure about what you've heard? Come find out the truth behind these and other wildlife rumors. Reservations required.

16 Thursday

Wildlifers--Quilt Block

10-11:30 AM, 1-2:30 PM, 3:30-5 PM, and 6-7:30 PM -- 50+ Years

This month we begin another year of learning about nature by creating a monthly patchwork block to make a Missouri Sampler quilt. Attend this month's program and begin a new and fun-filled year of learning about outdoor Missouri. Reservations required.

16 Thursday

Moonlight Magic

7 PM -- Families

Can the moon improve the fishing? Do plants grow better during certain lunar phases? In this program, you will discover how and if plant and animal behavior is changed by the moon. Afterwards, we will venture outside to peer at the moon's surface through binoculars and telescopes. It will be a magical experience! Reservations required.

18 Saturday

Hammer Hype: Bird Brained Projects

2 PM -- Young Adults (13-17)

No school today. Bored? Well, grab your hammer and hang up the BRB*. Join naturalist Andrea Putnam as she shows you how much fun woodworking for birds can be. Each participant will have an opportunity to build a bird feeder. Reservations required. *Computer lingo for "Be Right Back."

19 Sunday

Nature Notes -- Winter Trees

1 PM -- Families (Children must be accompanied by an adult.)



Discover what poet William Carlos Williams calls "*the wise trees which stand sleeping in the cold.*" Come with us as we walk around Runge to behold beautifully patterned bark, uniquely contoured branches and distinctive shapes of Missouri's trees.

Bring your own journal or use our paper so you may sketch and make nature notes about winter trees. Reservations required.

25 Saturday

Runge Reading Guild

2:30 PM -- Adults

In anticipation of the Bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark expedition, the Runge Nature Center Reading Guild will read and discuss *Undaunted Courage*. This wonderful and sweeping adventure by Stephen E. Ambrose shows us the American West as Lewis saw it -- wild, awesome, and pristinely beautiful.

"Undaunted Courage is a work of love: rhapsodic and heroic."

- The Wall Street Journal

"Ambrose brilliantly reconstructs the expedition from Lewis's point of view."

- San Francisco Chronicle

We will read and discuss this book in January and February. Please read chapters 1 through 20 and join us for discussion and sharing. Reservations required.

The **Babes in the Woods** program is taking time off. We will return in the spring with fresh new programs for the youngest among us. Watch for those dates in the March/April *Habitat Happenings*.

For the little ones...

Snowflakes
The cold and still of winter is upon us. Will it snow? You are invited into the warmth of the nature center to learn about animals and snow. Reservations required.

Little Acorns 3-6 years of age

Friday, January 10 – 10 AM
Tuesday, January 14 – 10 AM
Tuesday, January 14 – 6 PM
Friday, January 17 – 2 PM
Saturday, January 18 – 10 AM
Saturday, January 25 – 10 AM

Events for... **February**

Registration for all programs begins on January 3rd. Call 573/526-5544 to make your reservation.

1 Saturday

Mysterious Meander

2 PM -- *Families*

It appears that your winter woodland is quiet and void of activity, covered in cold. But our mission is to uncover clues that there are indeed signs of life! Let's slip into our warm spy gear and hike Raccoon Run trail searching for tracks, scat, and signs that wildlife leave behind. Reservation required.

7 Friday

Star Gazing

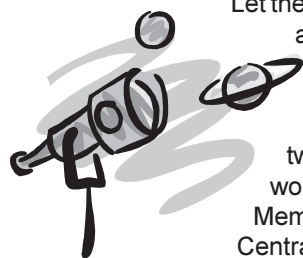
7 PM -- *Young Adults (13-17)*

Imagine yourself surrounded by diamonds and twinkling lights. With the use of telescopes and binoculars, we'll explore the constellations and the stories behind them. Come prepared to be amazed as we journey to another place. Dress according to the weather. Hot chocolate provided. Reservations required.

11 Tuesday

Night Lights

7 PM -- *Families*



Let the night sky awaken your curiosity as we focus on a myriad of twinkling wonders. Members of the Central Missouri

Astronomy Association will be on hand to help you peer through telescopes as we search for Jupiter, Saturn, and other shimmering sensations. Reservations required.

13 Thursday

American Frontiers: A Public Lands Journey

7 PM -- *Adults*

Experience the grandeur of America's public lands through the adventures of two teams of trekkers who completed a 60-day, Canada-to-Mexico journey exclusively on public lands. Join team member Jessica Terrell as she shares the ups, downs, ins, and outs of the 3200+ mile trek through stories, photos, and footage provided by the National Geographic Society. Program sponsored by the River Bluffs Audubon Society. No reservations required.

15 Saturday

The Runge Hiking Club

8 AM-5 PM -- *18 Years and older*

This month, we'll travel to one of our most popular state parks--**Bennett Spring**. We won't be in search of trout, though. We'll hike the **Natural Tunnel Trail** (7.5 miles) to find a 296-foot-long S-shaped tunnel--one of the largest, most beautiful (and largely unknown) natural tunnels in the state. Bring your lunch, water, and wear hiking boots or comfortable shoes. We will eat lunch on the trail. Bring a flashlight if you want to explore inside the tunnel. Also come dressed for the weather. Reservations required.

15 Saturday

Nature Notes -- Animal Folklore

11 AM -- *Adults (Children must be accompanied by an adult.)*

In our nature notes this month we'll ask the question, "Can it be real?" Writing and sketching will help us reflect on the differences between mythical and actual animal behavior and contemplate how stories may be inspired by real wildlife. Bring your own journal or use our paper so you may sketch and make nature notes about animal folklore. Reservations required.

15 Saturday

Big Birds!

1:30 PM -- *Families*

Birds that have a strong beak, sharp talons, and prey on other animals are called raptors. The Raptor Rehabilitation Center from the University of Missouri Veterinary School will teach us more about these amazing birds. They will even bring a few live raptors with them. Reservations required.



For the little ones...

Rise and Shine

Is it time to wake up from a long winter's nap? February is the month to learn about groundhogs and whether or not they can answer that question. Reservations required.



Little Acorns 3-6 years of age

Thursday, February 6 -- 10 AM

Tuesday, February 11 -- 10 AM

Tuesday, February 11 -- 6 PM

Saturday, February 15 -- 10 AM

Tuesday, February 18 -- 2 PM

Saturday, February 22 -- 10 AM

20 Thursday

Wildlifera--Quilt Block

10-11:30 AM, 1-2:30 PM, 3:30-5 PM, and 6-7:30 PM -- *50+ Years*

This month we begin another year of learning about nature by creating a monthly patchwork block to make a Missouri Sampler quilt. Attend this month's program and begin a new and fun-filled year of learning about outdoor Missouri. Reservations required.

22 Saturday

Runge Reading Guild

2:30 PM -- *Adults*

This month the Runge Nature Center Reading Guild will "proceed on" with the reading of *Undaunted Courage* by Stephen E. Ambrose. Please read chapters 21 through 40 and join us for discussion and sharing. Reservations required.

Check It Out!

From crayons and glue to tracks and treks, there's something new and exciting every weekend at Runge. You don't need to call--just stop by between 10 AM and Noon on Saturdays or from 1 to 3 PM on Sundays. It is an opportunity you won't want to miss!

Runge Gift Shop

Take the mystery out of your gift giving needs. Our gift shop can provide the answers. Check out our field guides, binoculars, and pocket naturalists.